

Local Land Services,
State Operations,
PO Box 2105,
Dubbo, NSW, 2830.

Thursday 6th July 2017

RE: SUBMISSION ON THE NSW GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVES

The Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) of Councils welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the review of NSW Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) currently being undertaken by the NSW Government to determine which TSRs are still used or required for the original purpose they were set aside for and to determine if they are important for other reasons.

For over two decades the Hunter JO has been actively involved in regional and local scale biodiversity planning and conservation initiatives that have confirmed the important ecological role that TSRs and the remnant vegetation they possess contribute not only to local, but to broader regional, state and national conservation outcomes. Activities completed by the JO in partnership with member Councils and State and Commonwealth agencies of particular relevance to the current TSR review include:

- Regional vegetation mapping and conservation modelling
- Ecological assessment of ecologically significant roadside reserves across the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid Coast region.
- Systematic vegetation surveys of TSRs in the Mudgee-Merriwa and Gloucester Rural Lands Protection Board Districts (completed in 2007).
- On ground restoration and rehabilitation of vegetation communities (including Endangered Ecological Communities) located in TSRs and roadside reserves across the region.

Given the significant knowledge, experience, information and data that this work has generated the Hunter JO is extremely well placed to provide information to the TSR review that would directly contribute to identifying the environmental value of TSRs located across the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid Coast region of NSW.

Unfortunately the on line "TSR Web Spatial Tool" does not provide the ability for our staff to effectively or efficiently integrate and analyse the numerous and various datasets we have available to inform the review, given the many thousands of TSRs that are located across the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid Coast region. Using the online tool would consume a substantial and unnecessary amount of our staff resources.

For us to positively contribute to the review requires access to the spatial data layer for Travelling Stock Reserves in NSW. However, recent requests to the Department for access to this data layer have been declined meaning that at this point in time we are unable to contribute the significant amount of information we hold. Given that licensed access to this information has previously been provided to the Hunter JO by the Department for discrete

and finite project initiatives we would encourage that this again occur so that we can positively contribute to the TSR review.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how this may occur. Should you have any further queries or wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact Steve Wilson, Deputy Director Environment Division, on 4978 4026 or at steve@huntercouncils.com.au.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Stephan', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Roger Stephan
Chief Executive Officer